

Croydon Creek Nature Center

Field Trip Guide

*For
Educators*

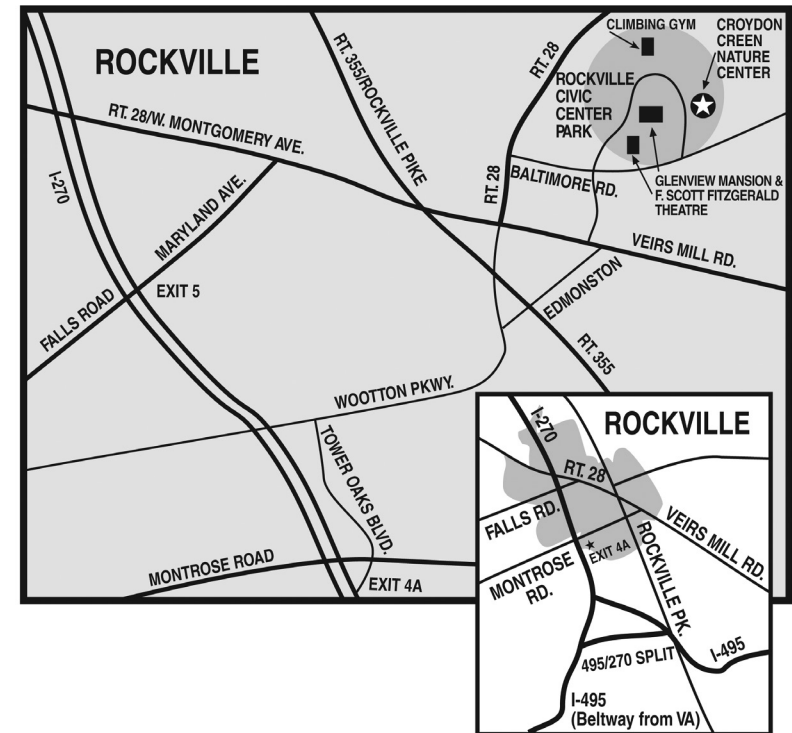


Croydon Creek Nature Center

852 Avery Road, Rockville, MD 20851
240-314-8770 • www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek

Directions:

Croydon Creek Nature Center is located within the Rockville Civic Center Park. From Route 355 in Town Center, take Veirs Mill Road to Route 28. Make a right onto Baltimore Road. Go past the main entrance to Glenview Mansion and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre/Civic Center at Edmonston Dr. Continue straight on Baltimore Rd. Turn left on Avery Road. Follow Avery Road to the nature center.



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City of Rockville
Department of Recreation and Parks

Hours of Operation:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday-Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Additionally, we are closed New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Program Registration and Fees:

Guided field trip programs fees are as follows: For City of Rockville schools the cost is \$3 per student with a minimum of \$50 per program. For non-City of Rockville schools the fee is \$5 per student with a minimum of \$50 per program.

When scheduling a program, please let us know if your group has special needs. We can tailor a program to your group's abilities to make your trip memorable.

To register for a program please call us at 240-314-8770. Full payment for the program will be due upon arrival.

Group Size:

Due to facility size, we may limit group size to maintain quality and provide personalized attention. Large groups may be asked to visit on multiple days depending on their size.

Chaperones:

A 1:10 chaperone to student ratio is required for grades 3 and higher, and a 1:5 chaperone to student ratio is required for groups in grades 2 and lower.

Lunch Facilities:

Due to space limitations we cannot reserve indoor lunch facilities for your group. On nice weather days we invite you to enjoy the outdoors and picnic on the grounds provided you dispose of your trash appropriately.

Welcome

Welcome to the Croydon Creek Nature Center catalog of school programs.

Our mission at the Croydon Creek Nature Center is to promote and enhance the knowledge, understanding, appreciation and protection of our natural resources through quality interpretive programs and exhibits. Our school group programs aim to incorporate challenging and thought-provoking activities that make natural science fun and exciting.



This year you will find some new programming options and you will notice that our program descriptions have changed to include correlations to the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum and the Montgomery County Public Schools science blueprints. We hope that this makes planning your field trip a much easier process.

We strive to provide the best field trip experience possible and we value your insights. Your feedback helps us improve our programming. Please let us know what you think by completing and returning the post-program evaluation provided.



Guided Field Trip Programs:

We offer a variety of naturalist-led field trip options for you and your students. Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs are 60 minutes in duration. For grades first through eighth, programs are 90 minutes in duration to allow for a more in-depth learning experience. Staff at the Nature Center is also able to offer customized programs for your group. Please note that customized programs are not available in April, May or June.



Our programs are aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum (VSC) or the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) science blueprints and organized by grade level. All programs are conducted both indoors and outdoors. Please remind your students to dress appropriately for the weather. Nametags are encouraged to allow us to personalize our programs for your students.

Pre-kindergarten-Kindergarten

Mammals, Birds, Reptiles and Amphibians: Croydon Creek critters will help your young zoologists learn about the animal kingdom. Students will learn how to classify these creatures and meet a few of Croydon Creek's favorite critters. They will also take a walk through our forest and meadow to put their classifying skills to the test.

VSC Alignment: 3.PK.A.1a-d, 3.K.A.1a-d

MCPS Blueprint Grade K: LIT, MAO

Available: All year

Habitat Explorers: All living things have the same basic needs: food, water, shelter and space. By engaging your group in activities and adventures in our forest and meadow, our naturalists will help your students learn how different animals meet their basic needs.

VSC Alignment: 3.K.E.1a-d, 3.K.F.1a-c, 6.K.B.1a-b

MCPS Blueprint Grade K: LIT

Available: All year



What else is there to do at Croydon Creek Nature Center?

The nature center offers a variety of activities and exhibits. We invite everyone to spend some time learning about their urban environment and enjoy some of the resources we have to offer.

Discovery Room: Meet the animals that live in and around Rockville, including snakes, turtles and amphibians. Hands-on activities, books and puzzles entertain and educate.



Exhibit Room: Observe and identify birds while relaxing on the oak and hickory bentwood benches. Meet our Eastern Screech Owl and investigate our ever-changing exhibits.



Nature Center Explorations: Find the animal tracks in the building, search for hidden animals in the mosaic mural or enjoy a game of "Mission Possible." Venture outdoors

for a scavenger hunt, visit our weather station, or take a walk to discover our meadow, forest and stream. Trail maps are available at the front desk to guide you through the John G. Hayes Forest Preserve located next to the Nature Center.

Lower Level Exhibit Room: Enjoy our latest permanent exhibit featuring our local watershed. Discover how your everyday choices can make a positive impact on the place where you live.



Outreach Programs:

Croydon Creek Nature Center's outreach programs bring the captivating natural world to your classroom, library or meeting place. These lively 45-minute presentations are informative, educational and are presented in an enjoyable learning format. Programs feature active learning through live animal demonstrations and hands-on activities.



A \$25 deposit is due in order to reserve a specific date for an outreach program. The fee for our outreach programs is \$100 plus \$3 per student for City of Rockville schools or groups, or \$5 per student for non-City of Rockville schools or groups. The fee, less the \$25 deposit, is due the day of the program. All checks must be made payable to City of Rockville. Programs can be scheduled Tuesdays through Fridays from October to April. The maximum group size is 30 students per presentation. Multiple presentations may be scheduled for the same day.

Outreach programs offered include:

Mammals, Birds, Reptiles and Amphibians – Croydon Creek critters will visit your school to help students learn about the animal kingdom. Through hands-on and thought-provoking activities, students will learn about the classification of animals. This program can be adapted for grades Pre-kindergarten-5.

VSC Alignment: 3.PK.A.1a-d, 3.K.A.1a-d

MCPS Blueprint Grade K: LIT, MAO

Nature Invented It First – Ever wonder where humans got the idea for sonar, Velcro or helicopters? Through nature artifacts and visuals, your students can learn more about ideas humans have borrowed from nature and put into everyday use. This program does not feature live animals and can be adapted for grades 2-5.



Grades 1-2

Forecaster's Soup: Rain or shine, the same ingredients are needed to make the weather. Learn how air, water and heat combine to create everything from sunny summer days to chilly winter snowstorms. Students will use a weather journal to practice weather forecasting at home and participate in a weather scavenger hunt.

VSC Alignment: 2.1.E.2a-e

MCPS Blueprint Grade 1: WAM

Available: All year

Soil Sleuths: Soil is essential to all living things. Students will have a chance to examine soil samples up close to determine the different components and discover why it is essential to life on earth. Next, go on a hunt for the origin of soil – rocks. On the trail we will uncover the different types of rocks common to our area and learn how rocks are classified.



MCPS Blueprint Grade 1: RSS

Available: All year

Seasons: Spring, summer, fall and winter -- the natural world changes with the seasons. Students will discover why our seasons change and how animal and plant life changes, too. Depending on the season, your group will travel outdoors to learn why leaves change color in the fall, how animals prepare for winter or how to recognize the signs of spring.

VSC Alignment: 2.1.D.2a, 2.1.E.2a-d, 3.2.F.1a-c

Available: All year

Insect Explorations: Did you know that there are more insects on our planet than any other type of living creature? Join us for an in-depth look at the world of entomology and discover the insect inhabitants of Croydon Creek. From butterflies and moths to grasshoppers, your students will enjoy learning how to identify a variety of species.

VSC Alignment: 2.3.C.1, 2.3.F.1, 2.6.A.1, 2.6.B.1

MCPS Blueprint Grade 2: LCB

Available: April-June



Budding Botanists: What makes a plant green? Where do new plants come from? Why are plants important? Your group will learn about form and function from our photosynthesizing friends. Students will conduct plant part dissections, record observations in their field journals and journey outside to search for plants in their natural environment.

VSC Alignment: 3.1.A.1a-c, 3.1.C.1a-b, 3.1.E.1a, 3.2.C.1a, 3.2.F.1a-c

Available: March -June

Grades 3-5

CSI Croydon: Animal mysteries abound at Croydon Creek Nature Center, and with a little detective work our naturalists can show your students how to solve them. From tracks to scat, your group will learn how to decipher wildlife clues in the John G. Hayes Forest Preserve and participate in an owl pellet dissection that will put their investigative skills to the test.

VSC Alignment: 3.4.E.1ab, 3.4.E.1ab, 3.3.E.1a-d

Available: All year

Plants and People: You couldn't live in a world without plants. From the socks on our feet to the cereal we eat, plants are organisms we depend on daily. Students will discuss the different ways we use these plants every day, dissect and classify some familiar plant parts and create a project using natural dyes. Of course no program is complete without a hike outdoors to see how plants function in the local environment.



VSC Alignment: 3.4.A.1a-d, 3.4.E.1a-c

Available: All year

Geology Rocks: Come discover the role that rocks have played in forming Croydon Creek. Your budding geologists will examine the physical properties of various rocks and minerals using a variety of testing methods and record their results in scientific field journals. Then, they will venture outdoors to observe geology in action by studying the earth processes and materials that form the John G. Hayes Forest Preserve.

VSC Alignment: 2.5.A.3a-c, 2.6.A.2ab, 2.6.A.4a-d

MCPS Blueprints Grade 4: EAM

Available: All year



Grades 5-8

From the Creek to the Chesapeake: The Chesapeake Bay sustains an amazing array of wildlife. Learn how Rockville's streams are connected to the Bay and the impact human activity has had on the aquatic organisms living there. Students will conduct an experiment to explore the importance of water quality and hike to Croydon Creek to conduct a hands-on investigation into stream health involving a closer look at macroinvertebrates.

VSC Alignment: 6.5.B.1a-b, 6.5.B.2a-c, 3.5.A.1e, 6.6.A.1ade, 6.6.B.1a-c

MCPS Blueprint Grade 6:

Chesapeake Bay Population and Ecosystems

Available: April-June



Adaptation Adventures: How have animals and plants adapted to live in their environments? Investigate how living organisms have changed over generations in order to survive. Students will explore some incredible adaptations of different plants and animals, conduct an experiment that demonstrates a physical adaptation, and participate in an adaptation relay.

VSC Alignment: 3.6.D.1a-g

Available: All year

Self-Guided Field Trip Programs:



You are welcome to bring a group to the nature center without having a naturalist-led program. We offer various activity sheets to enhance your nature center experience. *Advance reservations are required in order to ensure a quality visit for all.* No fee is required. To register your self-guided group, please call us at 240-314-8770.

